

tubercles which are typically larger than the anterior ones. Column prominently winged, about 3 mm long, the wings vaguely lobate, tinged with purplish or pinkish, truncate above, rounded below.

Found only once within our area, in scrub thickets near West Palm Beach; it is apparently extinct here, and probably may be considered an escape plant. Also in the West Indies, principally Cuba and Jamaica.

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STUDIES IN ANTILLEAN BOTANY

6. An Oncidium New to the Bahama Islands

- Alex D. Hawkes -

In a previous paper in this series, the writer discussed the occurrence of the orchid Oncidium floridanum Ames on the island of Cayo Coco, Province of Camaguey, Cuba (cf. "Studies in Antillean Botany: 2. Two Additions to the Cuban Orchid Flora," PHYTOLOGIA 3, iv (1949) 155). It is now apparent that this singularly attractive, characteristically terrestrial species also occurs in the Bahamas.

A collection of this species has been made on the island of New Providence, near the city of Nassau, by Mr. Floyd S. Shuttleworth, of the University of Miami, and herbarium material is deposited in the Buswell Herbarium of that institution, without serial number. Mr. Shuttleworth found Oncidium floridanum to be very common in a scrub thicket, on Soldier Road, New Providence, growing as a terrestrial species with Epidendrum of several types. The plants are, vegetatively, much less robust than Floridian material, and perhaps best approach those specimens gathered by this writer in the Cuban locality; the leaves are inordinately slender, somewhat flaccid, and appear almost etiolated. The erect inflorescence in the Bahaman type reaches a height of only a little more than 3.5 dm, whereas in Florida the species often produces spikes to 3.5 m high! The blossoms in the New Providence plants are more suffused with greenish than is typical, and the segment arrangement is slightly more spreading.

The discovery of this Oncidium in Cuba, and now its subsequent location in the Bahamas, makes us wonder if perhaps its range will not prove to be more extensive in the Antillean region. It is closely allied to Oncidium sphaelatum Idl., and specimens collected as that species may, upon more critical study, prove to be O. floridanum.

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